

**Site Selection Process & OMB Circular A-76 Public-Private Competition
For the
NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC)**

April 5, 2004

Background:

- The NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) is the organization that will perform a variety of consolidated transactional and administrative activities currently done at NASA Headquarters and each agency Center.
- The NSSC provides a competitive method for accomplishing high volume and routine activities, as well as activities that require specialized knowledge or expertise in the functional areas of human resources, information technology, procurement and finance.
- On December 12, 2003, NASA announced the public-private competition under OMB Circular A-76 for the NSSC Service Provider.
- An A-76 public-private competition is a process of determining the most efficient and effective way to conduct a particular set of activities, whether accomplished by the government or private sector. Because this is an A-76 competition, an agency proposal will be submitted as well as private sector proposals.
- A separate competitive process among the NASA Centers was initiated in December 2003 to select a site for the NSSC.
- Six proposals for the NSSC site selection process were received in January 2004. Both NASA and an independent contractor conducted a careful and thorough review of each submission.
- NASA's Administrator and Deputy Administrator visited all six proposed sites during February and March 2004.

Current Status:

- The site selection evaluation process concluded the exceptional quality, creativity and high level of partnership reflected in each of the site nominations exceeded the requirements set forth in the site nomination criteria and guidelines.
- Consequently, NASA has decided to include all six sites for consideration as part of the public-private competition for the NSSC service provider.
- The excellent quality of the site nominations, coupled with the requirement for specific cost data in the A-76 process, has made including the site selection in the public-private competition an outstanding alternative for NASA.
- This approach allows offerors the opportunity to propose an innovative solution providing the required NSSC services, including site selection, at a reasonable cost to the Government (taxpayer). Offerors will select the site that best fits their proposed solution.

Future Plans:

- Any one of the six sites chosen by a potential service provider would be acceptable to NASA.
- Every site will have the opportunity to partner with potential service providers upon request.
- NASA will ensure the A-76 competition will provide a fair opportunity for all six potential locations.
- In the upcoming weeks, NASA Headquarters will work directly with each Center to review the A-76 process and discuss specific details of how these sites will be represented in the A-76 solicitation. The solicitation will include, at a minimum, a general description of each site, Center point-of-contact, and instructions regarding interaction with the Centers.
- This change will require the six NASA Field Centers to extend the validity dates of their site nomination proposals through June 2005. The solicitation will permit offerors to propose temporary space arrangements if necessary to satisfy an October 1, 2005, NSSC start-up.
- Evaluation criteria in the A-76 process will include overall cost (including facility related costs), technical merit, and past performance. The Technical evaluation includes an assessment of the offeror's proposed approach, resources and capabilities, and plan for managing the effort.
- NASA will not re-evaluate the technical merits regarding site-related characteristics included in the Center nominations. However, NASA will evaluate all costs related to providing the site.
- The six NASA Field Centers and their community partners can expect offerors to solicit their updated site proposals upon release of the draft NSSC A-76 solicitation. NASA plans to issue the draft NSSC A-76 solicitation for comment in May 2004.
- Updates to site proposals are dependent upon each offeror's planned proposal preparation schedule.
- The final NSSC A-76 solicitation is scheduled for release in July 2004. This solicitation will provide offerors 60 days to prepare and submit proposals, including their selected site, to NASA for evaluation.
- Selection of the NSSC Service Provider and associated site under the A-76 public-private competition will occur next year, on or before June 2005.

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